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Marginal Column By GEORGE LEONOV

THE "Big Hope" conference of the Big Four in Berlin is to be a wide-open affair. There are no preconditions and, it would appear, anything can be discussed from the convocation of a five-power party, with the participation of People's China, to the question of East-West trade. There is no predicting its outcome, but it can be said that the conference is blessed at least by an atmosphere more mellow than has surrounded most of the preceding meetings of the Foreign Ministers. In the East, where statements are more taciturn and the only barometer is the official press which indicates the political weather in leading articles rather than interviews with Ministers, the editorial tone has been moderate. On the other side, the less inhibited statements of the West have permitted themselves of a cautious optimism and even implications that some may be found for compromise on what were once irreducible minima — which, in fact, have already been reduced by the mutual agreement to meet without a fixed agenda.

BUT while the Soviet side has left no doubt about the importance it attaches to discussions on a five-power conference, there need be even less indication as to the pivotal point of the conference. The question of Germany's future is bound to dominate the conference-room. The American Secretary of State, who has predicted that the Berlin meeting can be "wound up" in three weeks, must know more than he will tell. The divergence of the Allied and Soviet views on the question of Germany's reunification is still as wide as the steps of Russia, and if these views alone could be turned toward the question of convergence within the 21 days mentioned by Mr. Dulles, the time will have been well spent.

TO say that the German question, as now posed, is a complex would be an understatement, and though the conference opens on Monday without preconditions, there are more than enough preconceived notions. The West has given no hint of the slightest relaxation of its demands for free elections to precede the creation of an all-German Government; the East wants an all-German Government to conduct its own elections without foreign interference. The Allies have never agreed to consider the Oder-Neisse frontier as final; the Russians insist on the adherence to the Potsdam decisions of 1945, which would mark the recognition of this border incumbent on the time partners. Among the Western powers, not even France is opposed to the European Defense Community treaty, given satisfactory assurances that America and Britain will not forsake Western Europe to domination by a revivified Germany; but Moscow's insistence on the inviolability of Potsdam means a Germany "neutralized" for the foreseeable future.

AT his press conference on Tuesday Mr. Dulles opined the conference might have "great historical significance" if the Soviet Foreign Minister came to Berlin with a constructive mood, ready to scrap the Kremlin policy which the Secretary of State described as largely devoted to driving "edges into gaps of discord" in the Western camp. If the chances of success depend on such Soviet abstention, they are slim indeed. Moscow's previous notes on the subject have made it perfectly clear that the Russian case, whether by coincidence (for Russia is in Europe) or uncoincidentally, is largely based on these points of discord.

Jerusalem, January 21.

British Electricians Stage Reprisal Strike

LONDON, Wednesday (Reuter). — A new series of "guerrilla" strikes by the Communist-led Electrical Trades Union began today as a reprisal for yesterday's lockout of members who took part in Monday's 24-hour token strike.

The union also plans to call out more than 1,000 electricians on immediate strike on priority construction sites throughout Britain by the end of the week. A week's stoppage of union members has been called for next Monday.

The union announced a "fight to the finish" when the employers locked out thousands of workers yesterday.



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Smooth Opening Seen Assured For Berlin Talks

BERLIN, Wednesday (Reuter). — No last-minute hitches were expected over the preparations for the Foreign Ministers conference starting next Monday. Allied sources said here today.

Agreement had been reached on the chief technical problems, according to a Four-Power statement issued after a technical committee met at Soviet Headquarters in East Berlin last night.

Public information officers of the Four Powers were attending the Technical Committee when it met tonight at the Soviet Headquarters in Berlin for the third time to discuss final preparations. This was construed to mean the talks would deal with the provision of adequate facilities for journalists from all over the world who will flock to Berlin to cover the conference.

Soviet Foreign Minister Vyacheslav Molotov is expected to arrive here on Saturday, according to Communist-controlled Berlin radio.

Preliminary Talks

U.S. Secretary of State Dulles, British Foreign Secretary Anthony Eden, French Foreign Minister Georges Bidault were expected to arrive here on Saturday for preliminary talks, but Allied official sources had no details yet.

The British delegation led by Mr. Eden will include 19 Foreign Office officials, a British spokesman said here today. The Foreign Secretary's chief advisers will be Parliamentary Secretary of State Anthony Eden, British High Commissioner in Germany Sir Frederick Hoyer-Millar and British Ambassador in Moscow Sir William Clayton.

The Soviet Democratic Party today said the Berlin meeting should not be mistaken for a peace conference, which alone would be a "disaster" for the series of questions connected with German unity. The Four-Power conference should not therefore be burdened with territorial questions.

View Task of Parley

The Berlin conference's task would be to prepare the ground for action of a future all-German parliament and government.

"For this reason the Social Democrats refuse to have a part of Germany bound unilaterally either militarily, economically or politically," it added.

The entry of the Social Democrats into the United Nations as an equal member was the best way to allay the fear of the former victor powers of a reunited Germany.

West Berlin Councilor Professor Tiburtius is arranging top performers to supplement the official poetic and concert performances.

The East German news agency ADN announced that renowned East German artists and Soviet musicians would perform in Berlin during the conference.

Dulles, Molotov To Meet Before Talks

WASHINGTON, Wednesday. — Soviet Foreign Minister V. M. Molotov has agreed to hold preliminary discussions in Berlin with Secretary of State Dulles on President Eisenhower's atom-for-peace plan, it was announced last night.

The State Department made the announcement after Mr. Dulles indicated to a news conference that the U.S. might request his reliance on atom-bombing in the event of a Russian permit adequate international inspection and control of atomic arms.

Mr. Dulles discussed the President's plan to pool atomic resources for peacetime uses for 20 minutes today with Soviet Ambassador George Zarubin. The Department announced that Mr. Dulles will continue the discussions with Mr. Molotov in Berlin.

(UP, Reuter)

French Union Troops Reoccupy Thakhek

SAIGON, Wednesday (Reuter). — French Union forces today reoccupied the central Laotian town of Thakhek, on the Mekong River border with Thailand.

Marie-Corbin's men were first to enter the town, which was seized by the Vietnamese on Christmas Day — after a four-day drive through the jungle from the French stronghold of Seng, 40 kms. to the south.

Only light resistance was met and the French High Command said there were no French losses.

Laotian and French army, infantry and artillery later reentered the town and the French reoccupied Thakhek.

Its recovery means the French supply line between north and central Laos, cut by the Vietnamese drive across the Indo-China to the Thailand border. The French evacuated Thakhek on Christmas Eve. Military quarters said it had little strategic significance, but its capture should give a big psychological boost to Indo-China troops fighting the Communist-led Vietnamese.

Indians Return 22,000 PoW's to UN Command

PANMUNJOM, Wednesday (Reuter). — The hand-over of unrepatriated North Korean and Chinese prisoners was completed here early today when the last of nearly 22,000 anti-Communist Chinese prisoners returned to Allied hands.

Just over 100 prisoners — 72 Chinese and 28 North Koreans — had asked the Indian custodian troops for repatriation to Communist territory.

The United Nations Command has announced its intention of releasing the prisoners returned to them on Saturday — the date set by the Korean Armistice Agreement. The 22,000 prisoners were loaded with anti-Communist Chinese bound for Formosa. They are expected to be repatriated to Communist territory on Saturday whether they have arrived in Formosa or are still at sea.

Holland First To Approve E.D.C.

THE HAGUE, Wednesday (Reuter). — The Netherlands became the first country to complete legislative approval of the six-nation European Army Treaty.

The First Chamber (Upper House) voted in favour by 24 votes to four.

The Second Chamber approved the treaty last July, but Dutch ratification is not official until the measure has been formally signed by Queen Juliana.

In a comment issued immediately after the vote, the Netherlands H. Freeman Matthews said he was "happy" to hear of the act's passage.

He went on: "As you are aware, the U.S. Government has supported this European project from its beginning. I know how deeply President Eisenhower and Secretary of State Dulles believe in it, and I was glad to inform them that the Netherlands is the first country to complete legislative approval and thus through its deliberations has affirmed its belief that this community is a vital foundation for a strong Europe and a lasting peace."

Eisenhower Presents New Budget Today

WASHINGTON, Wednesday (UP). — President Eisenhower will reveal to Congress today a new U.S. budget committing American resources to continuation of the foreign policy program on which the Roosevelt-Truman administrations.

Advance forecasts indicated that the President will cut military costs primarily by increased reliance on manpower and nuclear weapons, plus some cut in the number of men under arms. Defence Department officials said the new budget programme does away with military items no longer useful in the atomic age.

Experts forecast a total budget request to Congress of about \$66,000 million, which would save taxpayers some \$4,000 million.

Commons Cheer Prisoner Release

LONDON, Wednesday. — Foreign Secretary Anthony Eden was loudly cheered when he reported to the House of Commons today the transfer of Chinese and North Korean prisoners from the Neutral Nations Repatriation Commission to the U.N. Command.

He said he saw no reason why "disturbed conditions" should arise when Labour Member Arthur Henderson suggested the release of the prisoners might lead to a "very serious position in Korea."

Mr. Henderson also asked the Government to support India's efforts for the meeting of the U.N. General Assembly. Mr. Eden said Britain had never excluded the possibility of an Assembly meeting, but added he would like to see what happened before finally expressing a view on the assembly meeting date.

(Reuter, UP)

French Take Precautions Along Franco-Spanish Morocco Border

PARIS, Wednesday (Reuter). — France has taken military precautions along the Franco-Spanish border in Morocco to prevent possible disturbances following this week's meeting of Moroccan chieftains in Tetuan, Spanish Morocco, Government officials said here today.

Earlier, Foreign Minister Georges Bidault had a second meeting with Count Casa Rojas.

A French Foreign Ministry spokesman said today's talks were "frank and cordial."

On Monday Mr. Bidault was reported to have told the Spanish Ambassador that any move to disavow the authority of the Sultan would constitute a violation of the armistice treaty.

Meanwhile, the leave of French troops in Morocco had been cancelled and they had been ordered to stand by in their barracks, these officials said.

French Government officials said these measures were of a "routine type" which were put into operation whenever there was a threat of disturbances.

A French naval squadron flying the flag of Admiral Andre Robin today arrived at Oujda, Algeria. The squadron included the cruiser Gloire, the aircraft carrier Lafayette and a destroyer. French officials said their arrival was unconnected with the events in Morocco. The squadron was going to take part in naval exercises and it had received orders to sail to Oujda before the French Government had become perturbed about the Tetuan meeting.

Jordanians Fire On Two Trains, Kidnap Shepherds

Two Jordanian attacks on Israeli trains took place on Tuesday, the Army spokesman reported.

Shots from Jordan territory were fired before dawn at a Haifa-Lydda passenger train near Kfar Sfirin, hitting the dining car. There were no casualties.

The second attack was on a freight train two kilometers north of the Tel-Aviv railway station. The locomotive was hit but there were no casualties.

A third attack was on the two trains which were submitted to the Mixed Armistice Commission.

Three Israeli Arab shepherds and herds of 28 camels were kidnapped by armed Jordanians in Israel territory on Monday, the Army spokesman reported yesterday.

The penetration of the Jordanians was made near Kartin on the border of the northeastern Negev. The Jordanians opened fire on the shepherds who were tending their camels not far from the camp of the Beduin tribes to which they belong.

Israel has lodged a protest with the Israel-Jordan Mixed Armistice Commission.

The Jerusalem Post correspondent in Beer-Sheva reports that the shepherds were the Abu Ghadid tribe near Beer-Sheva. Two of the shepherds were boys aged nine and 12 and the third a man aged 21. A fourth shepherd, aged 16, wriggled out of the hands of his captors and ran to inform the police.

He reported that there were seven armed infiltrators dressed in uniforms of the Jordan National Guard and that they shot at him when he escaped.

Jordan yesterday submitted a complaint to the Israel-Jordan Mixed Armistice Commission charging that the four Frontier Force soldiers (which it called "Israel soldiers") had been taken on Tuesday morning near Kalkilya inside Jordan. A Truce Supervision Organization spokesman today told The Jerusalem Post.

The spokesman also said that the M.A.C. chairman has scheduled a joint on-the-spot investigation today.

The Old City Press, which also called the policemen soldiers, yesterday claimed that they were released within five days, as provided for in the Local Commanders Agreement, if it could be proved that they had entered Israel territory by mistake.

"Palestine" Old City daily, says that they were detained 100 metres inside Jordan after they tried to open fire on an Arab Legion patrol.

"A-Difa," another Old City daily, says the group, which consisted of a corporal and three privates, were taken to Nabulus for interrogation. Their weapons, a Bren gun and rifles, were confiscated.

"Palestine" also says that Israel again violated the M. Scopus Agreement by firing from the Hadassah compound into the Arab quarters outside the Old City Wall. The paper says that Jordan yesterday submitted a complaint to this effect directly to General Vagn Bennike, Chief of the U.N. Truce Supervision Organization.

(The paper a week ago charged that a similar complaint had been lodged with General Bennike, but a S.S.O. spokesman yesterday denied that the General had received any such complaint.)

Police Fired On From Jordan

TEL AVIV, Wednesday (ITM). — About 40 shots were fired from the Jordan side of the border at a police sergeant and constable who were patrolling some distance inside Israel near Umm al-Fahm village in the "little triangle" last night.

The firing stopped when the sergeant fired four shots in return.

Lebanese Vessel Capsizes Off Israel

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Israel has notified the Lebanese that she is ready to hand over the three sailors, it was said.

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Grave Anxiety Over German Arms

The Foreign Minister, Mr. Moshe Sharett, said in the Knesset yesterday that the problem of the re-armament of Germany has been the subject of consideration by the Government of Israel for a long time, and that grave anxiety as to the revival of German militarism has been expressed on numerous occasions. The Foreign Minister recalled that he himself had raised the question at the U.N. General Assembly.

The statement came in answer to various motions for the agenda by Mr. A. Altman (Herut), Mr. Y. Haskin (Mapai), Mr. E. Wilensky (Communist) and Dr. M. Sneh and Dr. A. Berman (Left Socialist).

Mr. Sharett announced that Israel had already communicated with the Four Powers to be represented at the Berlin Conference with regard to the necessity of requiring cooperation from East Germany, as they have already been required of West Germany.

The Foreign Ministry has already decided to send an observer to the Conference and had notified the Four Powers of its intention.

In reply to motions by Herut and the Left Socialists in regard to military assistance to the Arab States, the Foreign Minister repeated Israel's uncompromising opposition to the supplying of arms to any Arab country, so long as a state of war continues between Israel and the Arab States, so long as the Arab States refuse to conclude treaties of peace with Israel.

Mr. Sharett expressed his grave anxiety at the announcement of the intention to supply arms to the Arab States, since this announcement constituted an encouragement to the aggressive tendencies in the Arab states.

Remove Motions

On the Foreign Minister's assurance that the matter was the subject of constant consideration by the Foreign Affairs and Security Committee of the Knesset, the House decided to remove the motions from the agenda.

Among the demands which Israel should present to the four Foreign Ministers in Berlin, Mr. Haskin argued, should be a request to help Israel receive reparations from East Germany. "We have never received a cent of reparations from the Germans, but we opposed having anything to do with the Bonn Government," Mr. Haskin expressed a noticeable surprise.

The Communists and their fellow-traveler Left Socialists did not mention reparations; their only concern was to protest against the possible re-arming of West Germany, but they voted with Mapai on Mr. Haskin's motion when their own was defeated. Mr. Haskin's motion was directly supported a claim for reparations.

The motion introduced by Dr. Altman was to discuss the reported military help by the U.S. to the Arab States, although the arm would require to be repatriated against Israel. The Communists also wanted a debate, but against the arming of any country by the U.S. against the U.S.

Other motions for the agenda presented an odd medley. Mr. S. Zymann (G.Z.) wished to discuss why spy equipment is not granted exemption from the sales tax. Finance Minister Levi Eshkol said the tax in no case exceeded 5%, and it netted, in some months, \$2,000,000.

Mr. I. Hapoori (Hapoel Hamizrachi) suggested a discussion on "discrimination against communities." Minister of the Interior Israel Rokach angrily replied that such a discussion would only make such differences as existed much worse.

Denial Discrimination

Mr. Rokach denied that there was discrimination of any sort in the Government or in the Municipalities. He said he had heard cases of Hungarian-born parents who objected to their children's attending the same class as Yemenite children — but that was an exception. "I myself have Sephardi blood in my veins, and am proud of it."

Mr. Hapoori's motion was defeated, and Speaker Y. Sprinzak remarked that it should never have been made.

Mr. I. Hapoori (Progressive) moved for the second time in seven months, for a debate on the establishment of a diamond council. Minister of Commerce and Industry Peres Bernstein, suggested that the question be taken up by the Economic Committee. The Government, he added, had been trying to complete the council all the time, but the main reason for its failure so far are "personal."

Rabbi S. Lorincz (Agudat Yisrael) moved to debate the cost-of-living allowances problem, urging Government control in the matter. Minister of Labour, Golda Myerson said labour relations were a matter of free relations between workers and their employers. She would agree to consider the wages problem in that light, she added, only if Rabbi Lorincz did not oppose the Government control of industries.

Answering Dr. H. Feiler

(Progressive) at question time yesterday, Minister of Justice Pinchas Rosen said he had appointed a committee to inquire why registration of cooperative houses was a matter of free relations between workers and their employers. She would agree to consider the wages problem in that light, she added, only if Rabbi Lorincz did not oppose the Government control of industries.

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Remove Motions

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Among the demands which Israel should present to the four Foreign Ministers in Berlin, Mr. Haskin argued, should be a request to help Israel receive reparations from East Germany. "We have never received a cent of reparations from the Germans, but we opposed having anything to do with the Bonn Government," Mr. Haskin expressed a noticeable surprise.

The Communists and their fellow-traveler Left Socialists did not mention reparations; their only concern was to protest against the possible re-arming of West Germany, but they voted with Mapai on Mr. Haskin's motion when their own was defeated. Mr. Haskin's motion was directly supported a claim for reparations.

The motion introduced by Dr. Altman was to discuss the reported military help by the U.S. to the Arab States, although the arm would require to be repatriated against Israel. The Communists also wanted a debate, but against the arming of any country by the U.S. against the U.S.

Other motions for the agenda presented an odd medley. Mr. S. Zymann (G.Z.) wished to discuss why spy equipment is not granted exemption from the sales tax. Finance Minister Levi Eshkol said the tax in no case exceeded 5%, and it netted, in some months, \$2,000,000.

Mr. I. Hapoori (Hapoel Hamizrachi) suggested a discussion on "discrimination against communities." Minister of the Interior Israel Rokach angrily replied that such a discussion would only make such differences as existed much worse.

Denial Discrimination

Mr. Rokach denied that there was discrimination of any sort in the Government or in the Municipalities. He said he had heard cases of Hungarian-born parents who objected to their children's attending the same class as Yemenite children — but that was an exception. "I myself have Sephardi blood in my veins, and am proud of it."

Mr. Hapoori's motion was defeated, and Speaker Y. Sprinzak remarked that it should never have been made.

Mr. I. Hapoori (Progressive) moved for the second time in seven months, for a debate on the establishment of a diamond council. Minister of Commerce and Industry Peres Bernstein, suggested that the question be taken up by the Economic Committee. The Government, he added, had been trying to complete the council all the time, but the main reason for its failure so far are "personal."

Rabbi S. Lorincz (Agudat Yisrael) moved to debate the cost-of-living allowances problem, urging Government control in the matter. Minister of Labour, Golda Myerson said labour relations were a matter of free relations between workers and their employers. She would agree to consider the wages problem in that light, she added, only if Rabbi Lorincz did not oppose the Government control of industries.

Answering Dr. H. Feiler

(Progressive) at question time yesterday, Minister of Justice Pinchas Rosen said he had appointed a committee to inquire why registration of cooperative houses was a matter of free relations between workers and their employers. She would agree to consider the wages problem in that light, she added, only if Rabbi Lorincz did not oppose the Government control of industries.

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New Coalition in Sight As Main Parties Reach Accord

Grave Anxiety Over German Arms

The Foreign Minister, Mr. Moshe Sharett, said in the Knesset yesterday that the problem of the re-armament of Germany has been the subject of consideration by the Government of Israel for a long time, and that grave anxiety as to the revival of German militarism has been expressed on numerous

Magen David Adom Seeks First Aid

Unless the Ministry of the Interior and District Councils in the Jerusalem area undertake a major share of the responsibility for maintaining first aid services in the Corridor, Magen David Adom will be obliged to withdraw its help, the Jerusalem branch of M.D.A. told the Press on Tuesday.

For two years, M.D.A. has been urging the local authorities to cooperate in the establishment of a station at Hartuv. M.D.A. would provide ambulances, initial guidance and first aid courses, but neither the Ministry of the Interior nor the local council showed any interest, the organization claimed. A third of the total mileage covered last year was taken up by journeys to isolated border villages in the Corridor.

Thanks to contributions from Jerusalem manufacturers, their employees, lawyers and doctors, M.D.A. has been just able to cover its current expenses since last summer's closure—due to lack of funds. But a £12,000 deficit is still outstanding, and the organization's subsidies from hand to mouth.

The Jerusalem Merchants' Association yesterday announced a Purim campaign on behalf of Magen David Adom. Under the patronage of the Ministers of Commerce and Health, the campaign will include a chess tournament between professional associations, a basketball contest between all local schools, and a bazaar supported by tradesmen and merchants from the whole country.

First aid demonstrations in the streets, and a carnival procession of kindergarten children will culminate in a fancy-dress M.D.A. ball at the King David Hotel.

Mr. Joseph Berlin, Minister of Health, yesterday received Prof. P. Wallach, of Cordova, Argentina.

Mr. Haim Golan, representative of the Hamaahbir Hamakshar in the U.S. and Director of Israel Purchasing Service, left on Tuesday for the U.S. to resume his activities.

Mr. M.C. Hollis, M.P., arrived in Jerusalem yesterday as the guest of the Foreign Ministry and is staying at the Eden Hotel.

Mrs. E.S. Hooten gave a reception in honor of the conductor Walter Susskind after the L.P.O. concert at the Edison in Jerusalem last night.

At today's luncheon of the Rotary Club of Tel Aviv-Jaffa, at the Z.O.A. House, Mr. Louis Pincus, managing director of El Al, will speak on "Fifty Years of Flying."

The Israel Touring Club, Tel Aviv, in cooperation with the Tel Aviv Touring Club, will hold a discussion (in English) to be broadcast from the club's premises at 8.30 this evening on the subject "What is a Zionist?" The speaker will be Mr. S. Ginzburg, Lecturer, Hebrew University, Tel Aviv.

Dr. Emanuel Neuman, member of the Jewish Agency Executive, will speak on "American Jewry and Zionism" at Z.O.A. House, Tel Aviv, at 8 o'clock this evening, under the auspices of the Tel Aviv branch of the General Zionists.

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India Ending Air Pact With US



Pandit Nehru, the Prime Minister of India, is shown here addressing the guests at the inauguration of the Indian Airline Corporation at New Delhi recently. Express Photo

NEW DELHI, Wednesday (Reuters).—India has notified the U.S. of her decision to end the air agreement between the two countries as from January 14, 1955. It was officially announced here today.

The announcement said that India desires a new agreement with the U.S. which would enable American airlines to operate in India. It was stated that the U.S. is not to conflict with the economic operation and development of Indian airlines operating abroad in their legitimate areas of activity.

India has already revised her agreement with the U.K. the

Netherlands, Australia and the Philippines.

Cochin Jews Able to Come

LYDDA AIRPORT, Wednesday.

Most of the Jewish community of Cochin, in India, was found by the Government doctor sent from here, to be fit to immigrate to Israel. It is learned from the Jewish Agency office here.

The Cochin Jews were barred from coming because of the elephantiasis endemic among them. They are to be flown here beginning next month.

In fact, it can be stated that in the case of the worker earning over £1.125 a month, his real wage has declined on the average by nearly one-third. It is now again we use the date December 1953 £1.582 a day, whereas it would otherwise have been £1.147m.—an increase of 35.5%.

Mr. Kipnis proceeds to estimate what the economy has been secured to the State from the gradual reduction of upper salaries by the weighted cost-of-living allowance system. Assuming there to be 90,000 workers in industry, employed on an average, from 22-23 days a month, giving a total of 2 million working days a month, the total sum paid out in salaries in industry for December, 1953, should have been £1.147m.—an increase of 35.5%.

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Press Review: 'State Should Cover University Deficit'

Commenting on the adverse conditions suffered by the Hebrew University (now dispersed over 40 buildings in Jerusalem), "Hart" says that these are the fault of the Jordanian and the Israeli Government. The latter has not insisted within the framework of the many land exchange agreements on free access to Mount Scopus. The paper declared that the University has to pay £1,500 per annum monthly for the ground on which its temporary buildings have been established, stressing the great importance of the University from among many others, the point of view of Israel's security, the paper demands that the Government take upon itself to cover the institution's deficit.

"A Hamishim" (Mapam) engages in an all-out attack on the English Department of the University for using George Orwell's satire "Animal Farm." The paper claims that by so doing, the University has violated the beliefs and feelings of the progressive students who have already protested and demonstrated against the use as a textbook of this satire.

Financial Plight "Zmanim" (Progressive) also comments on the financial plight of the University and the Technion in Haifa and hopes that the Advisory Council for Higher Education will be able to help. The paper, however, expresses the concern about the structure of the Council, as most of its members are Government officials, that there should be no State intervention in matters of academic freedom is concerned.

"Davar" (Histadrut) says that the smallholders' settlement has attracted many and yet attract more settlers from the English speaking countries. The paper demands that care for these immigrants should not be restricted to their countries of origin and that more active encouragement should be given to them in Israel. The paper singles out the initiative of the Immigration and Absorption Department of the Jewish Agency and hopes that these modest beginnings should be followed up.

"Hahaker" (General Zionist) criticizes a Bill passed by the Knesset's Legal Committee on Monday which provides that the principle of administration should be further extended. The paper explains that though the intention was obviously to make our courts more efficient and to cut the backlog of cases, the practice in question has been regarded abroad as an only temporary expedient and so it should be considered here. The paper should be restricted, not to extend this practice, but to "Omer" (Histadrut) also criticizes the Knesset decision.

Most other papers comment on the coalition talks. "Hahaker" (World Zionist Union) thinks that a Mapai-Orthodox coalition will be more stable than a combination which omits the Orthodox. Those advisers who suggest that a Mapai-Orthodox coalition should be formed (assuming that the Orthodox will join later anyway) "do not know the Orthodox sufficiently well," the paper maintains. "Hamodia" (Agudat Israel) surveys the arguments for and against the "nationalization" of the Palestine Electric Company and concludes that there are many monopolies, the companies, not in the private sector, with the same degree of justification, should be "nationalized." "Al Hamishmar" (Mapam) says that the fact that Mapai is now subjected to blackmail by various pressure groups is the result of a year's pact with the General Zionists, which should never have been concluded.

Fewer Houses Built in Towns Construction of dwellings in rural areas continued in 1953 at the same level as in the previous year, while urban housing activity dropped one half, it is revealed by newly-published figures.

In the towns, about 40% of the houses built were for new immigrants, while in rural areas, their share was about 50%.

Rebbuilding lagged behind in regard to new housing completed, while construction of dwellings in private small holders' settlements was considerably higher than in 1952.

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ATZMAM CINEMA HAIFA Starting Saturday, January 23, 1954 The Powerful and Emotional French Drama awarded the 1st PRIZE at the VENICE FESTIVAL

THE NIGHT IS MY KINGDOM with JEAN GABIN + SIMONE VALERE Jean Gabin has reached his outstanding performance in this picture the VENICE FESTIVAL AWARD at best actor of 1951. English Translation: Distribution: "SUNFILM" Show at the MEGALON, Tel Aviv and ORION, Jerusalem.

NATURAL ENERGY-BUILDER Unlike sugar, which has to be converted by the digestive organs before its calories are released to give the body energy, honey is absorbed directly into the bloodstream. This remarkable property of honey makes it the ideal energy-builder for athletes and heavy workers, as well as for children of all ages.

ARCTIC ISLAND'S NEW LIFE

By Andrew Boyd

CHANGING GREENLAND. By Geoffrey Williamson. Sidgwick & Jackson, London, 250 pp. 18s.

It is always a pleasure for a reviewer to come across a book like Mr. Williamson's which covers virtually untroubled ground; for until recently Greenland has been as forbidden as Tibet and considerably less written about. This latter fact is more understandable, perhaps, when one realizes that despite its name, the world's largest island is almost entirely covered by Arctic ice and even today boasts a population of only 22,000.

The Viking settlements of Greenland lasted from the 10th to the 15th century; but after they died out, the country faded into oblivion until in 1721 Hans Egede, a remarkable Moravian pastor, founded a new Danish settlement, and began the conversion of the local Eskimos at Godthaab, now the capital. From these beginnings modern Greenland grew, painfully at first, and carefully guarded by the Danish Government against the incursions of Danish and other foreign visitors, so that their simple people might develop at their own pace and their own way. Seal-hunting, their chief occupation, gave them food, clothing, and covering for the summer tents and small boats; but overhunting and climatic changes drastically reduced the numbers of seal until, by the beginning of the 20th century, the people had to find another livelihood.

Their change to large-scale cod fishing marked the first stage of Greenland's revolution. For now larger motor-boats, equipment and clothing had to be obtained; and to meet this new situation a monetary system developed and the first trading stores were opened. Today, cryolite and open-pit coal mining, shrimp catching, ship repairing and even sheep farming in the south have become established occupations.

THRILLER RATION

HEIR PRESUMPTIVE. By H. Wade Macmillan. New York, 271 pp. 12s.

This is a very good indeed, by a rather neglected English mystery writer. It is almost a good society novel, with excellent characteristics, a fine background of a Scotch hunting lodge, a firm spare style, and a most original plot. Warmly recommended.

DEATH AT THE DANCE. By John Rhode. Dodd, Mead & Co., New York, 241 pp. 12s.

The English thriller writer is up to his ears here, his dry, unimaginative style seeming almost like a caricature of himself. However, the plot is clever enough and if the local inspector seems something of a fool, and the Scotland Yard man not very much better, these characters are probably nearer the actual truth than the super-refined police officers of other writers, even if these are more fun to read about.

MIDWINTER. By H. Wade Macmillan. New York, 241 pp. 12s.

A very painstaking and clearly authentic study of pragmatism in St. Louis, very interesting in the detail of police procedure, somewhat in the style of Mr. Gardner. The characterization is negligible, but the story has a most convincing ring about it, which makes it well worth reading.

THE CASE OF THE MOTH-EATEN MINK. By E.S. Gardner. Morrow & Co., New York, 274 pp. 12s.

Devotees of Perry Mason will find this just as good as any that have gone before. Mr. Gardner can be relied on for mathematical precision, no nonsense in sentiment, honest presentation of clues, and general credibility. Suspense is very well kept up. A certain inhuman aloof attitude, common to most of his stories, may repel some readers, while it will please others. Recommended. P.A.

THE RUSSIAN REVOLUTION. In the Workshop of the Revolution. By L.V. Steinhilber. New York, 241 pp. 12s.

Mr. Steinhilber, who was never a Communist, is the last of the old school of writers, first and only coalition Cabinet minister in which he held the post of People's Commissar of Justice.

Chess

A REMORABLE CONTEST. Instead of the usual features, most of this week's chess column consists of the results of the American tour of the Soviet Union, led by David Bronstein, the Russian grandmaster, against C.F.O.D. Alexander, which was played in the 7th round of the Hastings tournament and ended, after 120 moves, in a victory for the British master.

It will be noted how, when the clock was cleared after the 24th move, Alexander displayed admirable skill in an extremely difficult endgame with the double task of avoiding perpetual check and of protecting the passed pawn. He had refused a draw offered by his opponent on the 7th move and did not, of course, fall into the trap of accepting the Queen's sacrifice offered in the 19th and 20th moves.

The final scores were: Alexander and Bronstein 4½; Gulyaev, Belikov, and Maslennikov (Tatarsky) 4½; Glazman (Island), Treisman (German), and Tishin (U.S.S.R.) 4½; Thorsen (French), 3½; Wade (British), 3; Morris (British), 2.

Game No. 633

White: Alexander. Black: Bronstein.

1. P-K4. P-K4. 2. P-K3. P-K3. 3. P-K4. P-K4. 4. P-K3. P-K3. 5. P-K4. P-K4. 6. P-K3. P-K3. 7. P-K4. P-K4. 8. P-K3. P-K3. 9. P-K4. P-K4. 10. P-K3. P-K3. 11. P-K4. P-K4. 12. P-K3. P-K3. 13. P-K4. P-K4. 14. P-K3. P-K3. 15. P-K4. P-K4. 16. P-K3. P-K3. 17. P-K4. P-K4. 18. P-K3. P-K3. 19. P-K4. P-K4. 20. P-K3. P-K3. 21. P-K4. P-K4. 22. P-K3. P-K3. 23. P-K4. P-K4. 24. P-K3. P-K3. 25. P-K4. P-K4. 26. P-K3. P-K3. 27. P-K4. P-K4. 28. P-K3. P-K3. 29. P-K4. P-K4. 30. P-K3. P-K3. 31. P-K4. P-K4. 32. P-K3. P-K3. 33. P-K4. P-K4. 34. P-K3. P-K3. 35. P-K4. P-K4. 36. P-K3. P-K3. 37. P-K4. P-K4. 38. P-K3. P-K3. 39. P-K4. P-K4. 40. P-K3. P-K3. 41. P-K4. P-K4. 42. P-K3. P-K3. 43. P-K4. P-K4. 44. P-K3. P-K3. 45. P-K4. P-K4. 46. P-K3. P-K3. 47. P-K4. P-K4. 48. P-K3. P-K3. 49. P-K4. P-K4. 50. P-K3. P-K3. 51. P-K4. P-K4. 52. P-K3. P-K3. 53. P-K4. P-K4. 54. P-K3. P-K3. 55. P-K4. P-K4. 56. P-K3. P-K3. 57. P-K4. P-K4. 58. P-K3. P-K3. 59. P-K4. P-K4. 60. P-K3. P-K3. 61. P-K4. P-K4. 62. P-K3. P-K3. 63. P-K4. 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Vital Human Aspect of National Farm Planning

Social Problems of Settlement

By ITZHAK KANEV

THE development and expansion of agriculture have always been the chief concern of the Zionist Organization in general and the Jewish Agency in particular. These two factors are indispensable for the consolidation of our economic, political and security efforts, and especially more so since 1948, when, within a short period, the population has more than doubled and the formidable problem of feeding it has increased accordingly.

While this concern has been in the forefront of our problems, there has not always been a rational and understanding policy towards the individual settler who operates and develops his holding. It is not to be neglected that such a policy will necessarily retard the pace of construction and stabilization of our agricultural economy.

In most parts of the world, agriculture is lagging, despite the fact that the greater part of the population is engaged in working the soil. The achievements of modern science have not yet penetrated backward areas, the population of which constitutes some two-thirds of mankind. The inhabitants of these regions are not even able to grow their own food (or rice) from their over-exploited soil with great difficulty.

Small Israel, bracketed with these backward countries, or shall she be numbered among those countries, who have not achieved a satisfactory percentage of those who live directly by agriculture, while the past the service and liberal professions play in our economy is far out of proportion when compared with that of other countries. (See table below):

Percentage of earnings engaged in agriculture in Israel and other countries

Name of Country	% Engaged in Agriculture	% Earnings from Agriculture
Denmark	35	19
Switzerland	35	11
France	35	12
Italy	40	11
Israel	14.7	10

It must be stressed that the percentage of those engaged in services in Israel is higher than that in Great Britain where it is 24 per cent, and the United States where it is only 2 per cent. With all that, however, we must not lose sight of the fact that we are held up as a unique example in the East with regard to our achievements in agriculture, a factor which can be traced back to the arduous and unending self-sacrifice of the pioneering settler, the man, up to the outbreak of the Second World War.

Pioneers and New Immigrants
The pioneers did not stop to count the cost, and were willing to forgo even some of the basic necessities which characterize a civilized way of life. Tent and shack were living quarters for many years; hard physical unaccustomed labour was the rule. Nourishment left much to be desired, and living and working in difficult climatic conditions were not the least burden to be borne. Outlay for nourishment was at the lowest possible minimum, yet all efforts were made to maintain a proper nutritional standard for the younger generation. It was the cultural standard and the unbounded devotion to an ideal that brought about unexpected achievements in cultivation methods and the consequent increase in yields.

Here are two characteristic comparisons:
In the early 20's, the average wheat yield per dunam was 120 kg. today, it is 130 kg. and a maximum of 230 kg. per dunam; (the Arab fellah attains

50-60 kg. per dunam).
In 1920-21 the average milk yield was about 1,000 litres; today, it has reached an average of 3,000 litres and a maximum of 4,000 litres with no special difficulties.
Since the establishment of the State, there have been unusually important achievements in agriculture despite numerous objective difficulties. The cultivated area rose from 1.5 million dunams in 1948 to 2.5 million dunams this season. Food production has more than doubled. Hundreds of new settlements have been established and the number of families on the land numbered 40,000 at the end of 1953.

It must be noted, however, that people have been leaving the newly established farms. There are at present 1,800 vacant farm units (homes), 300 of them in labour villages and 1,500 in immigrant settlements, especially in the hill areas and in those places where conditions are particularly arduous. Another reason for this "desertion" is to be attributed to the social factor. Hence, it is imperative that we re-examine our present policy towards the individual and seek ways of alleviating the difficulties besetting absorption in the countryside.

Seven-Year Plan
Ministry of Agriculture experts have worked out an important programme for the next seven years which aims at the State's self sufficiency in food. According to the plan, the farming population will be doubled during that period through the addition of 40,000 farm units; the irrigated areas will be increased almost fourfold from 550,000 to 2,000,000 dunams. But the success of the plan itself will be possible only through strict adherence to cultivation methods perfected in most of the other branches of agriculture.

For this programme is most intimately linked with the implementation of irrigation schemes and the development of water sources. Happily, the broadly conceived water projects are now becoming a reality; rivers are being diverted and new lakes created.

But all this requires that we provide the standard of living for the individual in his creativity and ensure him suitable living conditions. The large budget of the Jewish Agency this year, 70 million, which has been earmarked for agricultural settlement, must take into account not only the farm and its maintenance, but also the man who runs it and keeps the wheels turning. How is this to be done?

Needs of Creative Labour
Prof. Gussakovsky, of the Hebrew University, has pointed out in one of his lectures: "Even on the perfected farm, the greater part of the national creative energy is created by man and his creative endeavour. We must remember this especially when we are now about to absorb settlers from many different countries. If at this juncture we fail to give the individual the importance due him, we shall fail in our efforts to stem the tide of emigration from the farm in the future, just as we have failed in the past."

The above is a social policy, not a social aid. The assured productivity of a population going over to agriculture rules out the need for social assistance. But it is necessary to carry out a social policy for the new settlers and ensure them suitable social services at the outset.

Without suitable education and training for the younger generation, the farm will not be able to maintain a modern agricultural economy and, therefore, absolutely necessary that a radical change in policy regarding the educational and

social problems of settlement, during the early years of settlement, cover part of the premium due from the new farmstead. Through, for example, the National Insurance Law provides for maternity grants, the new settlers will not be eligible to enjoy them unless they are able to pay the premium. It will be necessary for the settlement institution to pay all of the premium at first, and then gradually, during the next three years, pass the burden to the shoulders of the settler himself.

HOUSING
Our housing policy in the new settlements must also be altered. Living conditions must be improved with the provision of an increased water supply, better household conveniences and a shower.

The new immigrant settlers enjoy the mutual aid services provided by organized labour.

HEALTH
Kupat Holim, which affords them full services for a very small consideration. They pay membership fees as though their families earned IL.30-IL.35 per month and their payments go but a small way towards meeting the expenses of Labour's mutual aid institution. It cannot be expected that in the first and second years of settlement they should pay even this small sum. It is therefore necessary that the settlement institution cover this deficit during the early period of settlement and thus ensure that the farmers obtain the full medical assistance needed by man and his creative endeavour.

It is clear that as the family strikes root and obtains a firm foothold, the settlers will begin to pay their membership fees themselves. The National Insurance Law will not be able to cover new settlers unless the premium for them is guaranteed. When the settlement institution cover this deficit during the early period of settlement and thus ensure that the farmers obtain the full medical assistance needed by man and his creative endeavour.

INSURANCE
Ensuring the new farmers a livelihood through outside employment during their initial

period of settlement and removing the causes that may lead to their leaving their holding, is a pre-condition for any plan. Concern for both the farm and the individual should go hand in hand. Otherwise we shall not be able to carry out our plans for healthy progress and bring about the desired change in our economic and social structure.

While security measures and vigilance have been intensified, the security of the settlements and their population.

A solution to the marketing problem should be found without the settlement institution cover this deficit during the early period of settlement and thus ensure that the farmers obtain the full medical assistance needed by man and his creative endeavour.

MARKETING
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Ensuring the new farmers a livelihood through outside employment during their initial

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Curbing Senator McCarthy

Political Rivalry Brings Investigations Into Disrepute

By ALASTAIR BUCHAN

WASHINGTON, (APNS). — AS the second session of the 83rd Congress of the United States assembled for business last week, it became clear that Senator Joseph McCarthy might have difficulty in maintaining the virtually unchallenged freedom to investigate Communism and subversion, where and how he liked, which he enjoyed during last year's session. The endeavours to confine his activities have come from two different sources: Congress itself, and the Administration.

Senator McCarthy's power to conduct investigations derives from the fact that he is the chairman of the Senate Committee on Government Operations, and also of its Permanent

Investigating Sub-Committee. This committee was set up long before McCarthy became a member of Congress. It was created by the Senate in 1946, at the time of the operation of government at all levels with a view to determining its economy and efficiency. In other words, to act as the same kind of watchdog on Government expenditure and methods as does the Select Committee on Estimates in the British House of Commons.

Senators Irritated
McCarthy has always contended that these terms of reference give him virtually carte blanche to pursue any avenue of investigation he chooses; and the avenue he most frequently chooses is that of Communism.

McCarthy's attitude has come to irritate his fellow Senators of all shades of opinion, for it has

led him to poach on the preserves of the Foreign Relations Committee (as in the case of China trade), the Armed Services Committee (alleged espionage in the Army Signal Corps) and several other powerful committees. Moreover, at best McCarthy is doing a job for which the Senate Internal Security Committee, under the chairmanship of Senator William Jenner, was specifically created by Congress. There are two cases which will shortly come before the courts in which witnesses, who have been cited for contempt of Congress for failing to appear before McCarthy, will ask for a judicial ruling as to whether McCarthy's committee has as wide a jurisdiction as he thinks it has.

Moreover, there is evidence not only of irritation with McCarthy for stealing the limelight on every possible occasion, but also of alarm that the competing attempts of the McCarthy and the Jenner committees, together with that of the House Un-American Activities Committee, to be the first to bag any possible Communist, may bring the whole Congressional investigating process into disrepute. A number of proposals have been put forward already in the form of Bills to consolidate the three committees into one, the House Committee to abolish McCarthy's committee or to divest one-man sub-committees (since the operative members of McCarthy's committee are frequently sitting as one-man sub-committees) of the power to issue subpoenas. It is clear that Congress will not grant McCarthy all the money he would like for the continuance of his committee's activities this year.

Political Implications
The Eisenhower Administration is less concerned with the question of McCarthy's constitutional powers than with the political implications of his investigations. Any credit that his activities may acquire is eagerly snatched by himself; any discredit tends to hurt the Republican Party as a whole. With a Congressional election coming in November, the Republican leaders cannot afford to let McCarthy operate on a free rein if they can find any way of curbing him. It has been clear for some time that the Administration would like to see an investigation of subversive activities handled by the Jenner committee, which is somewhat — if not much — more circumspect and responsible in its methods.

It became evident from indications on Capitol Hill last week that the Administration had offered some sort of compromise to McCarthy — that they would co-operate closely with him on investigations properly belonging to his committee, but would not allow him to investigate through his own committee, alleged to have taken place under the Democratic Administration, if he would forego headline-hunting through his investigations.

Senator McCarthy angrily denied this offer, but it is significant that the next day investigations have announced that they are preparing to undertake concerns cases of tax fraud, and an inquiry into alleged Government waste and corruption in Alaska — in both which cases it will be difficult to find a Communist under the bed. There is almost no doubt, however, that he will continue his vendetta against Mr. John Foster Dulles, the Secretary of State, especially on the popular issue of the halting Western trade with China.

President's Proposal
The President's State of the Union Message delivered on January 7 contained an indication of a change in his attitude which appeared to have been brought about largely by pressure from his political advisers. The beginning of December the President said flatly, and in direct opposition to a statement by McCarthy, that Communism would not be a serious next November's elections. Yet the most challenging proposal contained in his message, and the one which won the loudest applause, was his recommendation that anyone convicted of conspiracy (which in this context means primarily military Communism) against the United States Government, should be deprived of his citizenship.

The proposal itself is a curious one, and seems more designed to show how alert the Administration is in rooting out Communism than to have any practical effect. It is already a crime to conspire against the United States; the Immigration Act of 1940 already makes provision for depriving a naturalized American of his citizenship if he is convicted of attempting the forcible overthrow of the Government. And in addition there are penalties of imprisonment and heavy fines for conviction on a charge of conspiracy. What the President seems to suggest is that persons so convicted should lose not only American citizenship but nationality as well, which would render them Stateless aliens.

Many people believe that this can not constitutionally be applied to native-born Americans, since it must necessarily conflict with the 14th Amendment which says: "All persons born in the United States are citizens of the United States and of the State in which they reside. No State shall make or enforce any law which shall abridge the privileges or immunities of citizens of the United States."

Trade in Drugs
Major-General Abdul Aziz Safwat, the Commandant of Cairo city police and the greatest Middle Eastern expert on drugs, has been the star pupil of Russell Pasha, Sir Thomas Russell, one-time Commandant of the Cairo police, who fought the drugs traffic — has just reported privately to the Arab League's narcotics bureau that Arab countries are increasing their clandestine export trade in drugs. The beneficiaries, he says, are Europe and the U.S. Major-General Safwat lists the drugs which are being exported as hashish, opium, cocaine and heroin.

Usually the Arab world does not itself produce much of the deadly white drug. It is a transit trade. Hashish, a wide spread "tippie" of poor people in Egypt, is in the main produced in Lebanon and Syria and exported to Egypt. The Lebanese are often frank about it. "If Egypt wants our farmers to stop growing the hashish-berry," they say, "we must buy their fruit in much greater quantities."

"You've been most kind to me, dear Meneasse," said the father kissing his hand.

"Good bye," said the father, pressing some money into his hand.

Meneasse started to go. He looked at the money and smiled. The day's task was over. Suddenly, the bride's father shouted:

"Meneasse, don't forget my second daughter. Find something for her. Remember, I want to open a grocery store too."

"I'll remember," Meneasse shouted back. "But what kind do you want?"

"The same kind. A firm one. They make a lot of money, these devils."

Moslem Brotherhood Hit

By THOMAS R. LITTLE

CAIRO, (APNS). — BY its attack on the Moslem Brotherhood, Egypt's Revolutionary Council has tackled its most serious challenge facing it in the country; for the Brotherhood harboured within its ranks that brand of fanatical Islamic nationalism which recognizes no patriotism but its own. The immediate reason for the attack on Egypt was to ask whether the Brotherhood would take this new blow lying down.

The Moslem Brotherhood has been estimated to have two million members in a population of 21 million. Its branches are everywhere in the towns and villages of Egypt. But more menacing were the extremist cells, which on past evidence were willing to use assassination and terrorism as a weapon against the Brotherhood's real or imagined enemies.

By 1948 the Brotherhood was rapidly becoming a Government within a Government, and when it assassinated a judge who had sentenced a Brotherhood extremist, Nokrashi Pasha, then Premier, dissolved the movement. The Brotherhood promptly responded by assassinating Nokrashi; and his successor, Ibrahim Abdel Hadi, ruthlessly suppressed the movement, imprisoning thousands and restoring internal security. It was also assassinated, on Palace orders, it is said, in February 1948.

Role Respected
Egypt's present leaders were sympathetic to the Brotherhood's subversive operations against the committee regime, and respected its part in the Palestine war. They did not therefore dissolve it with the political parties, and for long had friendly connections with the movement. The Brotherhood objected to the Government-sponsored Liberation Rally as a competing mass movement; it wanted to be the only mass movement in an Islamic Constitution, which Egypt, with its Mediterranean position and big Christian population, does not adopt; it objected to all negotiations with Britain, or any attempt to settle the international position, its intransigence produced quiet but steady opposition from the country's leaders, the trend of whose policy against the Brotherhood became more obvious the more the Egyptian Supreme Council, The Brotherhood's chief of the sympathy of some Army officers and of the mass movement behind it, became more overtly opposed to the regime, which suspected that subversive cells were being created from groups which were armed to fight the British in the Canal Zone in 1951.

When they struck against the movement, the members of the Revolutionary Council did not make Nokrashi's fatal mistake of dissolving it without drawing its teeth: they first tapped its strength.

They believe the Brotherhood, which has been divided in its leadership since Hassan El Banna's death, is not the formidable force it once was.

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THE MARRIAGE BROKER

By RAYMOND PHANET

MENASSE Abraham was a stoutly built man of 45, full of colour and animation. An experienced marriage broker, he had come to believe in the importance of propagating mirth and pleasure among his Kurdish brethren. As he lay comfortably on one of the cushions of the hut in the Mokor Haim meadows, he chatted with the people who surrounded him. His boisterous laughter, frequently heard, resounded in the midst of the gaiety of the wedding. Indeed he felt a professional obligation to be merry, as, after all, this happy union was all his doing. It was when he had covered the bridegroom, a pale-looking lad of nineteen who worked the land with his father in a remote village in the Galilee.

"You see," Meneasse explained, using his hands freely, "in my profession you've got to go from meadow to meadow, from village to village, till you find a pretty girl and a young man who is prepared to pay the price."

"I would like to ask you, Meneasse," said an old Kurd, "if you know a simple inexpensive girl for my son. You know, my wife is aging and we were thinking of getting a nice girl to help with the household duties."

"This is no place to discuss business," the marriage broker protested. "However, I am glad you asked me, for there are some people who refuse to consult me. Take Yitzhak the gardener, he didn't want my help. And what if he got in the end? A barren woman! That's the price for not consulting me. Besides, he paid such a high price for her. With my clients, never does such a thing happen. On the contrary, they all have plenty of children, always more than they ask."

IN the last few years, since he had emigrated from the north of Iraq, Meneasse had worked hard to maintain his position intact, in spite of what he called the slackening of morality in Israel. Some time after their arrival, the young Kurdish girls would refuse to live in the same house as their mothers-in-law. The but being too small to hold all the guests, some people were huddled in the front garden. Two middle-aged men, one playing the violin and the other the tambourine, made up the orchestra. They generally played light, amorous songs, accompanied by their own hoarse voices.

According to custom, the bride, a mid-looking lass of sixteen whose finger nails and palms were coloured yellow for

the occasion, was sitting in one corner of the hut, surrounded by women. She sat poised and quiet, with an eye on her future mother-in-law, who was persistently scrutinizing her. It was vital for the bride to cultivate her, as she had to keep house with her, while the men folk, the land far away. On the other hand, the bridegroom, who was accepted in the company of men, a sign that he was considered a grown-up, was now and then to catch the sight of the bride. And when their eyes met, it was the embarrassed look of a newly met couple, doing it a wife for the first time. "Oh, that's the cow," Meneasse burst out jovially. "That means you are getting a pretty wife for your son, in exchange for an amount of tomatoes. Not a bad bargain, is it? Everybody laughed heartily."

HOWEVER, the centre of attention was Meneasse, who was also a kind of social organizer, responsible for the welfare of the guests, but he was not allowed to be too prominent. "This is your son's wedding. It calls for a drink..." "I was thinking of the money I paid," the father murmured bitterly.

"Oh, forget it," Meneasse said, patting him. "After all, your son is getting a pretty girl in return. Eh, what do you think?" he asked the bridegroom. The lad, who had not expected this sort of question, stood abashed for a moment. Then, suddenly, realizing the importance of the question, and taking it for a compliment, he grinned slightly foolishly.

"Still, I think it was quite a lot of money," the father insisted. "We had to sell a cow."

"Only a cow?" Meneasse mocked, though afraid of this man's sulim, which seemed to threaten the hilarity of the wedding. Then he chuckled: "I know people who are prepared to sell ten cows any time just to get a pretty girl."

avoid a family quarrel. "I guess the best thing you can do now in Israel is to tell the land."

"Maybe it is," the father answered curtly. "However, I don't know what kind of work people do in towns."

"But you made a bit of money with your tomatoes last year, didn't you?"

"Well, yes, as a matter of fact, we bought a cow with the profits," Meneasse asked. "Well, then business is prospering."

"Yes, but we sold the cow to get a wife," he mortally pointed at his son. "Oh, that's the cow," Meneasse burst out jovially. "That means you are getting a pretty wife for your son, in exchange for an amount of tomatoes. Not a bad bargain, is it? Everybody laughed heartily."

MENASSE rose from his place and began to sing and dance as a stimulus for more energetic action on the part of the guests who, by that time, were relaxing peacefully under the influence of drink.

The dormant voices of the guests at once became vivacious and the room was brought up again to its previous musical standard. At that moment, the children, who were feeling forlorn and lost as a result of their parents' Kurdish songs, began to sing Hebrew songs which they had learned at school. They sang with gusto and at the top of their voices, though each one was singing a different song, as if they were resolved to outdo their parents. Completely satisfied with his accomplishment, Meneasse went out into the garden to adjust the difference in the musical volume of the two places. Having put this irregularity in order, he sat quietly on the carpet near the bride's father, who was in charge of the entertainment of the garden, and who chose to stay outside to avoid the unpleasantness of the bridegroom's father.

The old man is furious with me," Meneasse said, between two songs. "He thinks I charged him too much."

"Nonsense," returned the bride's father. "The dowry is not enough for me to open a grocery store. Besides, why doesn't he let other people live? His kind are getting rich too quickly. They have plenty of land, plenty of cows and chickens. I wish I had all this!"

"So do I," said a rather tall Kurd. "All you've got to do is to till the soil."

"I want to till the soil too," said another one.

Well aware of who was in the garden to adjust the difference in the musical volume of the two places. Having put this irregularity in order, he sat quietly on the carpet near the bride's father, who was in charge of the entertainment of the garden, and who chose to stay outside to avoid the unpleasantness of the bridegroom's father.

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